



QUICK FACTS

- Mission:** To establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, to develop and operate a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards, and to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.
- Governance:** NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental organization governed by a board of directors, with the majority of its 63 members being classroom teachers. Other directors include school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, representatives from teachers' unions and disciplinary organizations, and business and community leaders.
- History:** Created in 1987 in response to the 1983 President's Commission on Excellence in Education report, *A Nation At Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform*, and the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy's Task Force on Teaching as a Profession report, *A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century*.

National Board Certification ®

- National Board Certification is a symbol of professional teaching excellence. It was created so that teachers, like professionals in other fields, can achieve distinction by demonstrating through a demanding performance assessment that they meet high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.
- Based on core propositions and standards describing what teachers should know and be able to do, the process of National Board Certification is a forceful professional development experience. Teachers are strengthened in their practice and the beneficiaries of their improvement are the students in their classrooms.
- Teachers must demonstrate their knowledge and skills through a series of performance-based assessments that include student work samples, videotapes, and rigorous analyses of their classroom teaching and student learning.
- Written exercises probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.
- It is offered to teachers on a voluntary basis. While state licensing systems set requirements to teach in each state, National Board Certification establishes high and rigorous advanced standards for experienced teachers to demonstrate accomplished practice. A National Board Certificate is valid for 10 years.
- It is available to all teachers who hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught for a minimum of three years, whether in a public or private school, and have held a valid state teaching license for those three years.

National Board Certified Teachers®

The first 86 National Board Certified Teachers were named in January 1995. In November 2002, the National Board awarded National Board Certification to 7,886 teachers, bringing the total number of National Board Certified Teachers to 23,937.

Certificates Available for the 2002/2003 school year:

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| • Early and Middle Childhood/Art | • Early Adolescence/Mathematics |
| • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Art | • Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Mathematics |
| • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Career and Technical Education | • Early and Middle Childhood/Music |
| • Early Adolescence/English Language Arts | • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Music |
| • Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts | • Early Adolescence/Science |
| • Early and Middle Childhood/English as a New Language | • Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Science |
| • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/English as a New Language | • Early Adolescence/Social Studies—History |
| • Early Childhood through Young Adulthood/Exceptional Needs | • Adolescence and Young Adulthood/Social Studies—History |
| • Early Childhood/Generalist | • Early and Middle Childhood/Physical Education |
| • Middle Childhood/Generalist | • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/Physical Education |
| • Early Adolescence/Generalist | • Early and Middle Childhood/World Languages Other than English |
| • Early Childhood through Young Adulthood/Library Media | • Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood/World Languages Other than English |

Progress Report

- The number of candidates seeking National Board Certification has grown dramatically each year since this system of advanced certification became available in 1993/94. As of December 2002, more than 15,000 candidates are seeking certification in 2002/2003.
- The 24 certificates available in 2002/2003 are applicable to nearly 95% of the eligible teaching population. Teachers who deliver instruction in both English and Spanish may seek National Board Certification in the majority of certificate areas.

Local, State and National Support and Action

Strong support for this system of National Board Certification comes from Democratic and Republican governors and legislators, state and local school boards, the nation's two largest teachers' unions, teacher educators, education organizations, and classroom teachers.

- Incentives for National Board Certification are provided at the local level in more than 400 school districts or through statewide programs funded by other sources.
- Currently, 48 states offer regulatory or legislative support for National Board Certification and 35 of those states, following the leadership of former Governor Jim Hunt (NC) and former Governor Voinovich (OH), offer multiple incentives that provide financial support and use National Board Certification to permit greater inter-state mobility for accomplished teachers.
- The work of the National Board has received the endorsement of the former Presidents of the United States, George Bush and Bill Clinton. Former U.S. Secretaries of Education Lamar Alexander and Richard Riley strongly supported the work of the Board.
- NBPTS receives support from a wide range of associations, including the American Federation of Teachers, Council for American Private Education, Council of Great City Schools, National Alliance of Black School Educators, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Education Association, and the National School Boards Association.
- This project is funded in part with grants from the U.S. Department of Education and the National Science Foundation. Through September 2002, NBPTS has been appropriated federal funds of \$119.3 million, representing approximately 45 percent of the National Board Certification project. More than \$143.0 million (55 percent) of the project's cost will be financed by non-governmental sources, including:

Current

Apple
The Atlantic Philanthropies
AT&T
The Ford Family Foundation
George-Pacific
The Grable Foundation
Foundation
State Farm
Washington Mutual Foundation

Carnegie Corporation of New York
Charlson Research Foundation
The Chase Manhattan Foundation
Chevron Corporation
DaimlerChrysler
Dewitt-Wallace Reader's Digest Fund
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
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Ford Foundation
Ford Motor Company
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Arts
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